



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8
999 18TH STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, CO 80202-2466

January 24, 2003

Ref: 8MO

Mayor Tony Berget
City of Libby
P.O. Box 1428
Libby, MT 59923

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EPA REGION 8
SUPERFUND BRANCH

Dear Mayor Berget,

EPA is proceeding with plans to help fund and organize a workshop in Libby, Montana aimed at assisting local efforts in economic planning. While EPA's priority is to make sure that all cleanups protect human health and the environment, the Agency can, through the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, help communities realize economic potential of redevelopment in the wake of Superfund cleanups.

The workshop planning will move quickly so that the workshop can be held at the end of April 2003. A core planning group consisting of Jim Christiansen, Victor Ketallapper, Maureen O'Reilly, and myself from EPA, Craig French from DEQ, and Dennis Alexander and Tracy Velazquez from Commonweal Consulting, are already discussing ideas for a productive day-and-a-half workshop. This core group can assist in developing partnerships (EPA, DEQ and Commonweal), finding seed money (Commonweal), understanding technical issues (EPA) and overcoming legal barriers (EPA).

The core group invites you- or your designee -to be on a larger group of planning partners. We will jointly discuss details of the workshop so that it meets the needs of the Libby area while drawing on expertise that the core group may be able to offer. The planning partners will meet weekly via teleconference starting **Thursday, February 6 from 10:30 am to noon** to discuss goals, outcomes, format, content and logistics of the workshop. I will notify all partners of the number to call. We hope each organization will be represented in the planning partners' group so that there will be broad participation in the workshop and commitment to the outcome.

In order to keep the group to a workable size, we encourage you to designate planning partners who may be involved in two or more Libby groups or activities related to economic development. For example, the Mayor of Libby or his designee may represent the City of Libby and the LADC in the planning. There may be a planning partner who is able to represent both St. John's Lutheran Hospital and the CARD Clinic. If you know of another individual who should be a planning partner, but is not on the list of addressees at the end of this letter, please let me know.

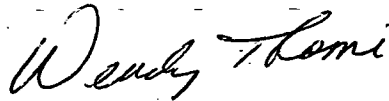


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Once the planning partners have been identified, a contractor will help to arrange planning meetings, follow up with action items and take care of logistics. I will send out an agenda for the first planning meeting. There will be topics which we all need to discuss together and focus areas for the planning partners to work on.

Please let me know by Monday February 3rd who you will designate as a planning partner for this workshop. I will also need their e-mail address. We really need your input! If we do not get local support for this effort, there will be little impetus to do the workshop. You can call me toll free at 1-866-457-2690 x5037 or e-mail me at thomi.wendy@epa.gov. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

Sincerely,



Wendy Thomi
Community Involvement Coordinator

Addressees:

Mayor John Brown, City of Troy
Laura Schrader, Troy City Council
Mayor Tony Berget, City of Libby
George Bauer, Libby City Council
Janice Woods, Libby Chamber of Commerce
Pat Naughton, Economic Development Council
Rita Windom, Lincoln County Commission
John Konzen, Healthy Communities
Gary Spencer, Community Advisory Group
Greg Larson, NW RC&D
Chad Shilling, Flathead Community College Lincoln County Campus
Brad Black, Lincoln County Health Officer
Laura Sedler, Community Health Center
Pat Cohan, Center for Asbestos Related Disease
Rick Palagi, St. Johns Lutheran Hospital Inc.
Mike Spence, Department of Public Health and Human Services
Bob Castaneda, U.S. Forest Service
Mark Simonich, Montana Department of Commerce
Dan Strausbaugh, ATSDR

cc:

Eileen Carney
Aubyn Curtiss
Keli McQuiston
Megan Morris

Rebecca Manna
Jim Christiansen, EPA
Victor Ketellapper, EPA
Maureen O'Reilly, EPA
Craig French, DEQ
Tracy Velazquez, Commonweal Consulting
Karen Ekstrom, CDM